

# Review Articles

## Education of Librarians.

*Major Problems in the Education of Librarians.* Edited by Robert D. Leigh. New York, Columbia University Press, 1954. x, 116 p. \$2.50.

These papers, or chapters, prepared for publication by Lauretta G. McCusker, Kathlyn Johnson Moses and Frances M. Pollard, grew out of reports in a seminar conducted by Dr. Robert D. Leigh, at the School of Library Service, Columbia University. All three authors were seasoned librarians and teachers before entering this seminar class in 1952/53. Four additional members of the course, who were unable to continue the work into the second semester, nevertheless presented papers which have been used as a basis for three of the present chapters and part of a fourth.

Following a foreword by Dr. Leigh, the three authors present six chapters, the first of which consists of an introduction. This covers historically the development of, and problems in, the training of librarians. Three chapters deal respectively with the education of: (1) special, (2) village, (3) school and children's librarians. Another valuable chapter relates to a work-study program in the library field. The sixth and last chapter constitutes a summary of the material covered in the foregoing sections and is entitled: "A General Program for the Education of Librarians."

The introduction, the chapter covering the work-study program and the final chapter are all necessary to round out this small book. The first two, however, present little that has not been said before in various articles and books concerned with library education.

The chapter devoted to special librarians gives a brief description of the birth and work of the Joint Committee on Library Education of the Council of National Library Associations. Here the reports of the seven subject areas (law, journalism, medicine, science-technology, finance, theater, music) are outlined. An attempt is made to tie up these reports with the general difficulties of training special librarians. The authors suggest that many of the problems might be solved by setting up a two-year program for intern-

ship as has been described in the chapter devoted to work-study programs. Further development of this suggestion might have been helpful; the elucidation of the advantages stressed might in the future provide material for a separate article.

"The Training of Village Librarians" stresses the problems of the librarian, generally untrained, in the small town library. Conditions known to exist in New York State form the basis for the development of the theme. The part played by the state extension agency in aiding small libraries is explained, as well as the fact that help from this source cannot solve all the shortcomings of libraries manned by workers who are ill-prepared to cope with the diverse conditions of low pay and limited hours of opening.

The chapter on the training of school and children's librarians forms at once the most critical and constructive element of the book. Agencies for training these types of librarian are so varied and the curricula differ so widely as to extent and purpose that the authors state with considerable truth: "Plainly, there is no common design or standard for the professional education of librarians serving children and young people in the United States." After considerable discussion of the training and duties of school and children's librarians, the authors arrive at the conclusion, in accord with the recommendations of a workshop, held at the University of Chicago in 1951, that there should be the same framework of education for both types of librarian. Better integration between undergraduate and graduate programs is also deemed necessary. Practical recommendations as to the accrediting of library training agencies and solutions for the certification of these two types of librarian are likewise presented.

An appendix furnishes a calendar for suggested two-year work and study plans. Four alternate plans are submitted, though it is stated that these are merely illustrative of others that might be evolved.

A section entitled "Bibliographic Notes," which is in two parts, completes the volume. The first part contains nine basic works on education for librarianship, each of which is annotated. A list of nineteen unannotated

items follows. Many of the latter seem more pertinent to the subject matter of the book, and more necessary to qualify and summarize because they are less familiar to the average librarian.

As a brief, introductory volume to certain of the problems encountered in the education of librarians, this text will no doubt serve a useful role. One might quarrel with the title, since there are other major problems which have not been included. For instance, are there no difficulties in the training of reference librarians, catalogers and administrators? In a second edition the present title might be amended so as to suggest more clearly the trend of the contents.—*Harriet D. MacPherson, Drexel Institute of Technology.*

## Rare Bibles

*Rare Bibles; an Introduction for Collectors and a Descriptive Checklist.* By Edwin A. R. Rumball-Petre. New York, Philip C. Dushnes, 1954. 53 p. \$6.00.

This is a revised edition of the work of the same title issued in 1938. Its compiler, the late Rev. Rumball-Petre, who died in July, 1954, is said to have been the only bookman who dealt exclusively with rare editions of the Bible.

In scope and arrangement the two editions are similar, beginning with "Incunabula," continuing with "Polyglots," "English Bibles," "Bibles Printed in America," "Hebrew, Greek and Latin Bibles," and "Bibles in Modern Languages other than English." The sections for "Miscellaneous Bible Portions" and "Curious Editions of the Bible" cut across the other categories both in time and language.

There are 378 items listed as against 345 in the first edition, the incunabula section, increased from twenty to forty items, being responsible for the greatest number of additions. Aside from this, the main difference between the two editions is in the character of the notes. In the first edition there were occasional references to prices but these have been omitted in the revision and the descriptions are limited to bibliographical and historical data.

Revision barely touched the bibliography. Only a half-dozen additions appear and one of these was published in 1838. It seems strange that it was added while such a worth-

while aid to the modern collector as the Pierpont Morgan Library's catalog of their exhibition of Bibles in 1947 was not included. The number of volumes of the *Gesamtkatalog* has not been brought up to date nor were later editions of works mentioned that have been brought out in new editions since 1938.

The compiler made it clear that the basis for his selection was rarity coupled with some historic or distinctive feature. But for some unexplained reason he did not include a single one of the Bibles famous because of their illustrations, for example, the Cologne Bible, the Lübeck Bible or the Malermi Bible. Among famous modern editions Bruce Roger's Lectern Bible is listed but not his World Bible. However it is individual taste that makes collectorship interesting and this is a useful handbook for a collector or historian of printing.

The two editions are witnesses of the change in book production during these last two decades. The 1938 publication of 500 copies reflects the fine printing of the day in the quality of the paper, the generous margins, and the eight illustrations which enliven the text. The 1954 edition of 600 copies has a slightly longer text compressed into ten less pages by crowding more words on a page of less attractive paper; there are no illustrations and the price is exactly double that of the 1938 edition.—*Bertha M. Frick, School of Library Service, Columbia University.*

## Book Collectors

*Private Book Collectors in the United States and Canada.* 10th rev. ed. New York, R. R. Bowker, 1953. 417 p. \$20.00.

The importance of the private book collector to librarians and to the future of the libraries under their care is something too clearly evident and, indeed, too widely recognized to require either persuasive argument or elaborate demonstration.

One has but to reflect upon some of the names which adorn the façades and which are found engraved upon the bookplates of libraries large and small all across the land to realize that the private collector has in the past played, and in an increasingly prominent manner continues to play, a vital rôle in the development and enrichment of American libraries.